



Blackgates Primary Academy

SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY EDITION

Friday 30 January 2026

Principal's Message

This week has been another productive one. Y5 are continuing to learn to swim exceptionally well.
School council have visited the recycling site and have so much knowledge about what happens there.
Year 5 took part in the Leodis Music day at Woodkirk. They were a credit to us all and I felt so proud of their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.
The altered lunchtimes seem to be going well. We will keep reviewing them and listening to staff and children.
Thank you for your ongoing support
Mrs Julie Coulson

Notices

Reminder: Please do not ride bikes on school grounds, this is hazardous to others.



Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May
Monday 20 July
Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

Starting 22 April for 5 weeks Family Cooker Club - See more information in Newsletter

Monday 16 February - Friday 20

February half term.

24 February Year 5 trip.

3 March Reception trip.

4 March Year 2 trip.

Parents Evenings

Tuesday 10 February 3.45pm - 7pm

Thursday 12 February 3.45pm - 4.45pm.

EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Tuesday 10 February - Love & Hearts theme

Monday 2 March - Pancake decorating

Friday 13 March - Mothering Sunday

Ducklings



This week, the children have been busy developing new skills.

They have been exploring scooping and pouring oats using spoons and bowls, which has been a great fine motor activity. Additionally, they have had fun rolling cars dipped in paint to create various line patterns."



Nursery

This week in Maths the children have been continuing their work on labelling 1, 2 and 3 objects and actions and have really enjoyed practising the skill of counting each number in sequence as they have jumped into each hoop during provision time.



The children have also enjoyed investigating how to help rescue the arctic animals trapped in the ice! The children were really confident in sharing their ideas and were all very creative in their approaches, demonstrating super problem solving and critical thinking skills. Well done everyone!



Robins

This week the childrens favourite lesson has been P.E! We had quite a few challenges when changing into P.E kit but the children showed such resilience and with support and encouragement from adults they did an amazing job. We then moved in different ways around the hall, exploring how ours bodies travelled around the space before moving onto a range of balance activities. We had so much fun and developed our balance and co-ordination skills too!



Just a quick reminder to label all your children's clothes especially on P.E days.

Thankyou for your support with this.

Just a quick reminder about our upcoming class trip as I know it was while ago you received the letters.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions via Parent Pay. If you have not yet contributed and can please do so as soon as possible.

Doves



This week, the children enjoyed their very first French lesson with Madame Boome! They learned how to say different feelings and colours in French through stories, songs, and fun interactive games. Madame Boome was so impressed by the children's wonderful listening skills and their enthusiasm throughout the lesson.

A polite reminder: if children are coming to school in wellies, please ensure they also bring a change of shoes. Many children are finding it tricky to run and climb on the rock-climbing wall while wearing wellies, so having school shoes or trainers to change into will help keep them safe and comfortable.

Miss Ruse



Penguins

Penguins have had a fantastic week. In maths we've been looking at equal and equal groups and beginning to understand the link between repeated addition and subtraction. The children have been so resilient. In writing, we're just about to start researching about lions for their non chronological report. In topic we've recapped the 7 continents and 5 oceans as well as looking at some facts about the Great Wall of China. It's been lovely to see the children so interested in learning about the world around them.



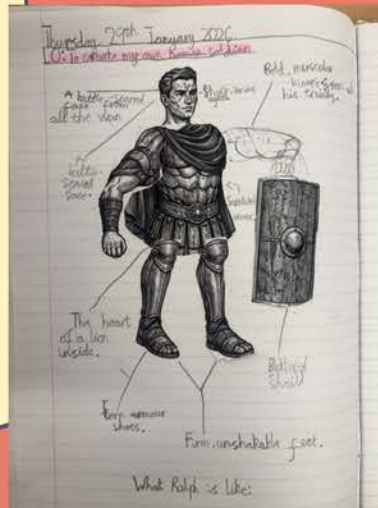
Nightingales

Year 3 have really enjoyed the Matilda duet which they created in their dance lessons. The class had some very imaginative ideas and thought carefully about body control. Everyone has really impressed me with their writing this week. They have worked hard to include the features of direct speech in their story writing. I am really looking forward to reading and marking them!



Ravens

This week in our writing lessons, the children have been exploring character descriptions and have chosen features to create their own Roman soldier to describe. They have then labelled them with vocabulary ideas to describe them, ready to write their own character description. The children have added their own imaginative ideas and accessories to their soldiers too. We are looking forward to reading the writing that the children produce.



Falcons

Year 5 had a wonderful time at the Leodis Celebration Concert on Wednesday - they were absolutely incredible. The children had fun learning 2 new songs and we even had a couple of very brave soloists. I am very proud of each of them. They all performed with great confidence and they sounded so beautiful.



**I AM STRONG
I AM CAPABLE
I AM RESILIENT**

Hawks

Another great week for Year 6. We have now completed our Spring 1 SATs, and I would like to say a big well done to all the children; the progress they are making is fantastic. Some children have been invited to attend booster sessions on different days, and I would really appreciate your support in encouraging them to attend, as these sessions will greatly support their progress towards SATs. With only three full months to go until SATs, every bit of learning really does count. If you have any questions regarding boosters, please feel free to speak to me.

★★★
Well Done

FAMILY COOKERY CLUB

Blackgates Primary Academy

Wednesday 1.45 – 3.15pm

Starting 22nd April 2026

For 5 weeks



For only £1 a session:

- Learn lots of new recipes together
- Get excited about cooking healthy meals, snacks, and desserts
- Get your kids to try new foods
- Spend quality time together



 **flourishing
families**

Please contact Helen Turpin
0113 8873609 to book a place



Dear Parents and carers.

On Tuesday 10th February, it is Safer Internet Day. This is a national day aimed to help children to use the Internet in a safer way.

This year, the children in KS2 will be taking part in a live lesson with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

Each year group will also cover age-appropriate lessons based on how to be safe online.

To support our celebration of Safer Internet Day, we are inviting all children to come to school dressed as an avatar on this day.

An avatar is a character or image that represents a person in the online world. Avatars are commonly used in games, learning platforms and apps to allow users to create a digital version of themselves. They can be realistic or imaginative and often reflect a person's interests, personality or creativity.

This theme links closely to Safer Internet Day, as it helps children understand how people represent themselves online and encourages discussion about online identity, privacy and making safe choices when using the internet. Through this activity, we will be exploring how avatars can be used positively and responsibly in the digital world.

Dressing up as an avatar will also be a fun and engaging way for children to take part in the day. Costumes do not need to be expensive or elaborate; simple ideas such as wearing bright colours, accessories, or creating a paper avatar are more than sufficient. The focus is on creativity and enjoyment rather than purchasing new outfits.

We would also like to invite parents and carers into school at 3:00pm on this day so that children can share the learning they have completed as part of Safer Internet Day. Please note that school will finish at the normal time for all pupils, and this invitation is an opportunity to celebrate the children's work.

We look forward to celebrating Safer Internet Day together and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Barrie





School Council

As part of our commitment to the Climate Action Plan, several of our older members of the School Council recently took part in an eye-opening educational visit to the Leeds Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility (RERF). The children were a shining example and credit to our school.

The children enjoyed seeing firsthand how the city's "black bin" waste is transformed into a resource. They were able to explore the "Living Wall," Europe's largest vertical green wall, which supports local biodiversity and improves air quality. Alongside Learning about Energy Recovery, discovering how waste that cannot be recycled is used to generate electricity and heat for thousands of local homes, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of our city.

This visit was more than just a trip; it helped our students understand that reducing waste plays a vital part of their future. Moving forward, our School Council will play an instrumental role in our schools climate action targets by being our Sustainability Ambassadors, leading initiatives within school and ensuring that "pupil voice" remains at the heart of our journey toward a net-zero future.





Check out this app it is called Lumi Nova - it is for children aged 7-12 to help them to learn how to manage and reduce symptoms of anxiety. It is free in certain areas including Wakefield. Click on the link below.

Lumi Nova - Free for families in Wakefield — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage

Get instant access to a fun digital therapy app to help your child self manage their worries.

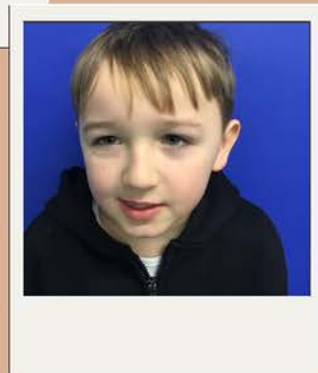
- 7-12 year olds (mild to moderate anxiety)*
- NICE Recommended
- Evidence Based

Stars of the week

Week ending 29.01.2026

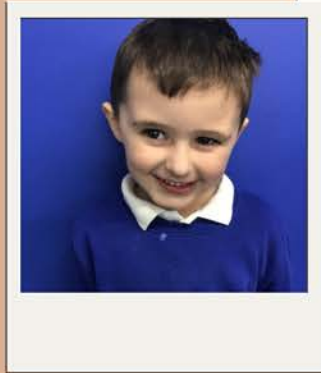


Great Job!



Stars of the week

Week ending 29.01.2026



Congratulations to all of our Stars



Our new website is now live please take a look at

www.blackgates.org.uk

We are also on Social media please search for us and give us a follow and like.



The Burhouse Bursary 2026

Applications now open!

Do you know a young person aged between 5 – 16 years who could benefit from financial support to pursue their goals and aspirations?

burhouse

CONSTRUCTION

Apply Now

Construction with a Conscience

The Burhouse Bursary 2026



The Burhouse Bursary gives money to children to help them pursue their goals and ambitions, whether that's for participation in sport, additional academic support, performing arts, specialist equipment, or any other genuine need for grant funding.

Open to children aged 5-16 years, Nationwide.

Head to our website for more information.

Application deadline: 6th February 2026

www.burhouseconstruction.co.uk

COULD YOU SPOT A LOAN SHARK?

A loan shark may pretend to be a friend but can become aggressive if you miss payments

They can charge high interest and don't give paperwork

They may threaten or bully you or your family

If you need help, contact
Stop Loan Sharks
in confidence

0300 555 2222
stoploansharks.co.uk



@SLSEngland @StopLoanSharksEngland
#SLSEngland #StopLoanSharksEngland

STOPLOANSHARKS
Intervention - Support - Education

The poster features a blue background with a white sun and clouds at the top. A yellow banner at the top left contains the text 'Workshop for parents and carers'. In the top right corner is the Leeds PCF logo. The central graphic is a yellow notepad with three rings at the top. The notepad's page displays the title 'Overview of health services in Leeds' and the details: 'Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026', 'Time: 11am till 12pm', and 'Location: Microsoft Teams'. To the right of the notepad, under the heading 'The session will cover:', is a bulleted list of topics. Below this list is a button labeled 'Book your free place' with a URL and a mouse cursor icon pointing to it. At the bottom of the poster, a green hill graphic is shown, and a small line of text states that the session will be recorded and provides instructions for submitting questions.

Workshop for parents and carers

Leeds PCF
Primary Care Foundation

Overview of health services in Leeds

Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026
Time: 11am till 12pm
Location: Microsoft Teams

The session will cover:

- How Health Services work.
- Health providers in Leeds.
- Health services in Leeds and where to find out more information about services.
- Transition to adult services within health

[Book your free place](https://forms.office.com/r/HealthServices)
<https://forms.office.com/r/HealthServices>

We will be recording the session, if you are unable to attend but would like to submit a question please complete the booking form

SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION DROP IN

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 4th February	10.30 till 12.30	Horsforth Library Building, Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 5BL

Services in attendance:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Little Hiccups
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

Let us know if you will be
attending the drop in

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>



If you would like more information about the drop in sessions email
LLO@leeds.gov.uk



LEEDS LOCAL OFFER

LIVE 2026

The Leeds Local Offer has information about services that help children and young people with SEND. It also helps parents and carers find support in one place.

Leeds Local Offer Live is an event where you can meet different SEND services and learn what they do.

This year, the workshops are about Supported Internships. Come along to find out more about this pathway.



Wednesday 25 March 2026 

10am till 3pm (Drop in) 

Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA 

BOOK YOUR PLACE 

[Complete the booking form here](#) 








Blackgates
Primary Academy
a member of Lincoln Academies Trust

Principal: Mrs J Coulson

Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/register. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late - our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below - we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☎: 0800 321 3248
🌐: www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Delta via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 3TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 www.coolmilk.com



Blackgates
Primary Academy
a member of Leodis Academies Trust

Principal: Mrs J Coulson

Dear Parent

Find below the term dates for the 2026/27 academic year for the Leodis Academies Trust schools.

	First day of the term	Last day of the term
Autumn Half Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Autumn Half Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Spring Half Term 1	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Summer Half Term 2	Monday 7 June 2027	Friday 16 July 2027

Please note:

- The August Bank Holiday falls on Monday 31 August 2026. This means the first day of the academic year is Tuesday 1 September 2026. All of the Leodis Academies Trust schools will use Tuesday 1 September as a staff training day, with the term for pupils and students starting from Wednesday 2 September.
- The dates of the two week Easter break are different to those being used by schools following the Leeds City Council term dates. Leodis Academies Trust usually follows the Leeds City Council term dates but for the 2026/27 academic year, it is believed that adopting the amended calendar will lead to better continuity and quality of education around the Easter weekend and two week holiday.
- Usual expectations regarding pupil and student attendance will be in place. Holidays may be granted in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Principal of the school. If parents have already arranged holidays according to Leeds City Council's Easter break, they should contact the school with evidence of the date that the booking was made, which will precede the date of this letter, so that consideration can be given as to whether it will be granted as exceptional.
- Monday 19-21 July 2027 are staff training days and schools will be closed to pupils and students. Any additional training days that will take place throughout the year will be communicated in due course.



We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our

school

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GB

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

Need help using Arbor?

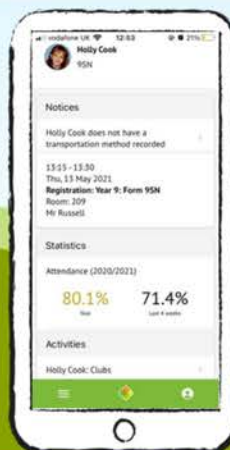
Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or

Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired - Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



Absences



If you do need to take your child out of school for any reason please can you either show proof of a medical appointment to reception or for a longer absence please fill out a leave of absence form so that we know where they are. It is our legal responsibility to follow up on absences and if we know in advance it saves us from having to contact you.





BLACKGATES PRIMARY ACADEMY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Holiday	The Academy Closes	The Academy Opens
Summer		Monday 1 September 2025*
Autumn mid term	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Christmas	Friday 19 December 2025	Monday 5 January 2026
Spring mid term	Friday 13 February 2026	Monday 23 February 2026
Easter break	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026
May Bank Holiday	Friday 1 May 2026	Tuesday 5 May 2026
Summer mid term	Thursday 21 May 2026*	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer break	Wednesday 22 July 2026*	

Training Days

- 1 Monday 1 September
- 2 Monday 1 December
- 3 Friday 22 May
- 4 Monday 20 July*
- 5 Tuesday 21 July*